

WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus for removing moisture from a test sample, said apparatus comprising:
 - (a) a drying member for drying a test sample passing through at least a portion of said drying member, said drying member including a housing having at least first and second ends and a removable drying agent container disposed in at least a portion of said housing;
 - (b) a plurality of drying agent particles stored and contained in said removable drying agent container for drying a test sample passing through at least a portion of said drying member; and,
 - (c) said housing having a movable portion that can be moved between a first position and a second position, when in said second position said movable portion allows access to said removable drying agent container so that said removable drying agent container can be removed from said housing thereby removing all of said drying agent particles in said drying agent container together.
2. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) said housing is sealed in a fluid tight manner.
3. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) at least a portion of said housing is transparent.
4. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) said drying agent particles are desiccant particles that change color when said desiccant particles are wet.
5. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) said removable drying agent container has a first end, a second end and a body

portion, said first end and said second end are fixed relative to said body portion such that said drying agent particles cannot be removed from said removable drying agent container.

6. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

(a) said removable drying agent container is substantially tubular in shape.

7. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

(a) said movable portion of said housing is a removable end cap.

8. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

(a) said body portion of said removable drying agent container has an outer porous surface permitting said drying agent particles to be viewed through said outer porous surface.

9. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

(a) said body portion of said removable drying agent container has a central passageway for permitting a test sample to pass there through.

10. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

(a) said drying agent particles surround said central passageway.

11. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein:

(a) said body portion of said removable drying agent container has an inner porous surface for permitting moisture in a test sample to be absorbed by said drying agent particles.

12. A removable drying agent container for containing a plurality of drying agent particles for drying an aerosol, said removable drying agent container comprising:

(a) a removable housing having a first end, a second end and a body portion;

(b) a plurality of drying agent particles disposed in said removable housing for drying an aerosol, said removable housing permitting the simultaneous removal of all of the drying

agent particles in said removable housing from a drying member so that the drying agent particles can be rejuvenated or replaced.

13. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

(a) said first end and said second end are fixed relative to said body portion such that said drying agent particles cannot be removed from said removable housing.

14. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

(a) said body portion has an outer mesh surface permitting said drying agent particles to be viewed through said outer mesh surface.

15. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 14, wherein:

(a) said body portion has a central passageway for permitting a test sample to pass there through.

16. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

(a) said drying agent particles surround said central passageway.

17. An apparatus as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

(a) said body portion has an inner mesh surface for permitting moisture in a test sample to be absorbed by said drying agent particles.

18. A method of drying a test sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a drying member for drying a test sample passing through at least a portion of the drying member, the drying member including a housing having at least first and second ends and an inner cavity, the housing being sealed in a fluid tight manner;

(b) providing a first removable drying agent container having a plurality of drying agent particles stored therein;

(c) inserting the first removable drying agent container into the inner cavity of the housing;

(d) passing a test sample through at least a portion of the drying member to dry the test sample; and,

(e) after a predetermined time removing the first removable drying agent containing member from the drying member.

19. A method as recited in Claim 18, including the further step of:

(a) inserting a second removable drying agent container into the inner cavity of the housing of the drying member after the first removable drying agent container has been removed from the drying member.

20. A method as recited in Claim 18, wherein:

(a) the step of passing a test sample includes passing an aerosol through at least a portion of the drying member to dry the aerosol by removing unwanted moisture.